



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes
Southern District of Alabama**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/ALS

CONTACT: TOMMY LOFTIS
PHONE: (251) 415-7131
FAX: (251) 441-5277

GUILTY PLEA IN TEXAS TO MOBILE COCAINE CONSPIRACY

MOBILE, AL— United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes announced that Jerome Watkins, a Detroit, Michigan resident, entered a guilty plea today before Senior United States District Court Charles R. Butler, Jr.

Watkins entered a guilty plea to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and faces a minimum mandatory sentence of ten years to life without parole. Watkins was arrested on August 5, 2008 in Detroit on the Indictment. The investigation began with the arrest of Wayne LaFitte in Mobile on January 7, 2008 and the seizure of five kilograms of cocaine. Watkins admitted that he stored drug proceeds for Daron Jones, who was LaFitte's source of supply for cocaine, during the conspiracy. LaFitte and Jones have previously entered guilty pleas.

The case was investigated by the Mobile County Sheriff's Department, the Mobile Police Department and the FBI and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Deborah Griffin.

####